

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 121540 TOSEC 010276

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY: S/P:WLORD

APPROVED BY: S/P:WLORD

EA-WHGLEYSTEEN (SUBS)

S/S-LCJOHNSTONE

NSC-RSOLOMON (SUBS)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY AIRCRAFT IMMEDIATE

INFO USLO PEKING PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 121540 TOSEC 010276

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH

SUBJECT: PRC COMMENT ON MAYAGUEZ OPERATION

REFERENCE: SECTO 01110

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM LORD AND GLEYSTEEN

1. PER YOUR INSTRUCTIONS WE CALLED IN THE CHINESE THIS AFTERNOON TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THEIR RECENT COMMENTARIES ON THE MAYAGUEZ AFFAIR.

2. LORD USED THE FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS: WE HAVE NOTED SOME OF THE RECENT CHINESE COMMENTARIES ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE INDOCHINA AREA, PARTICULARLY REGARDING THE MAYAGUEZ AFFAIR. WE HAVE ALREADY STATED FULLY OUR POSITION ON THIS MATTER. THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO ESPIONAGE ACTIVITY INVOLVED AND THE CHINESE SIDE KNOWS THIS. IN THE ABSENCE OF A RESPONSE TO OUR DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS WE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO TAKE ACTION. SUCH STATEMENTS AS HAVE BEEN MADE BY
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THE CHINESE SIDE CAN HAVE A SERIOUS IMPACT ON OUR PUBLIC

OPINION. THESE KIND OF STATEMENTS, IF THEY CONTINUE, CAN ONLY BE UNHELPFUL FOR OUR RELATIONS.

3. AMBASSADOR HAN HSU GAVE A BRIEF, PRO FORMA RIPOSTE, SAYING THAT THE UNITED STATES PROVOKED THE INCIDENT AND THE CAMBODIANS WERE JUSTIFIED IN THEIR ACTIONS. LORD

REBUTTED BRIEFLY AND MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE DISCUSSION WAS NOT TO GET INTO A LENGTHY DEBATE. OUR POSITION WAS WELL KNOWN AND WE WANTED TO GIVE OUR PERCEPTION OF THE IMPACT OF RECENT CHINESE STATEMENTS.

4. AMBASSADOR HAN COMMENTED THAT BOTH SIDES' POSITIONS WERE CLEAR AND THEN IMMEDIATELY INJECTED A NOTE OF CORDIALITY, NOTING THAT JOHN HOLDRIDGE WAS GOING TO BE THE NEXT AMBASSADOR TO SINGAPORE. AFTER A VERY BRIEF EXCHANGE THE CHINESE DEPARTED. INGERSOLL

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